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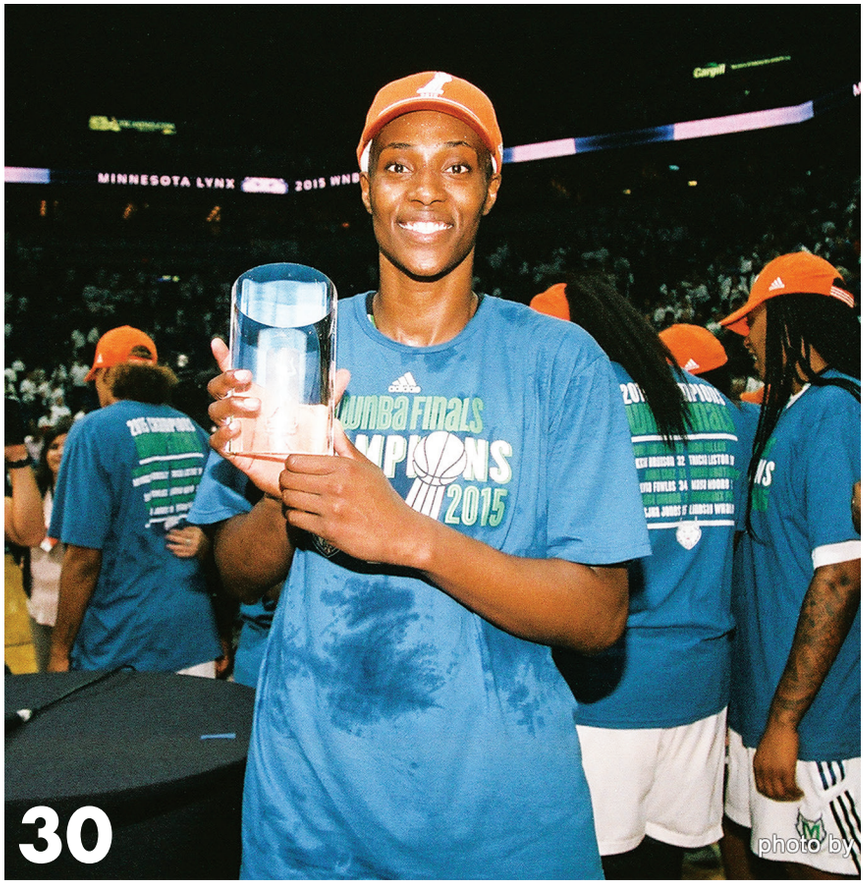
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ON THE COVER
Pop the cork and celebrate 2015 with us! Pictured here, Seimone Augustus of the Minnesota Lynx shares some bubbly after winning the WNBA National Championship. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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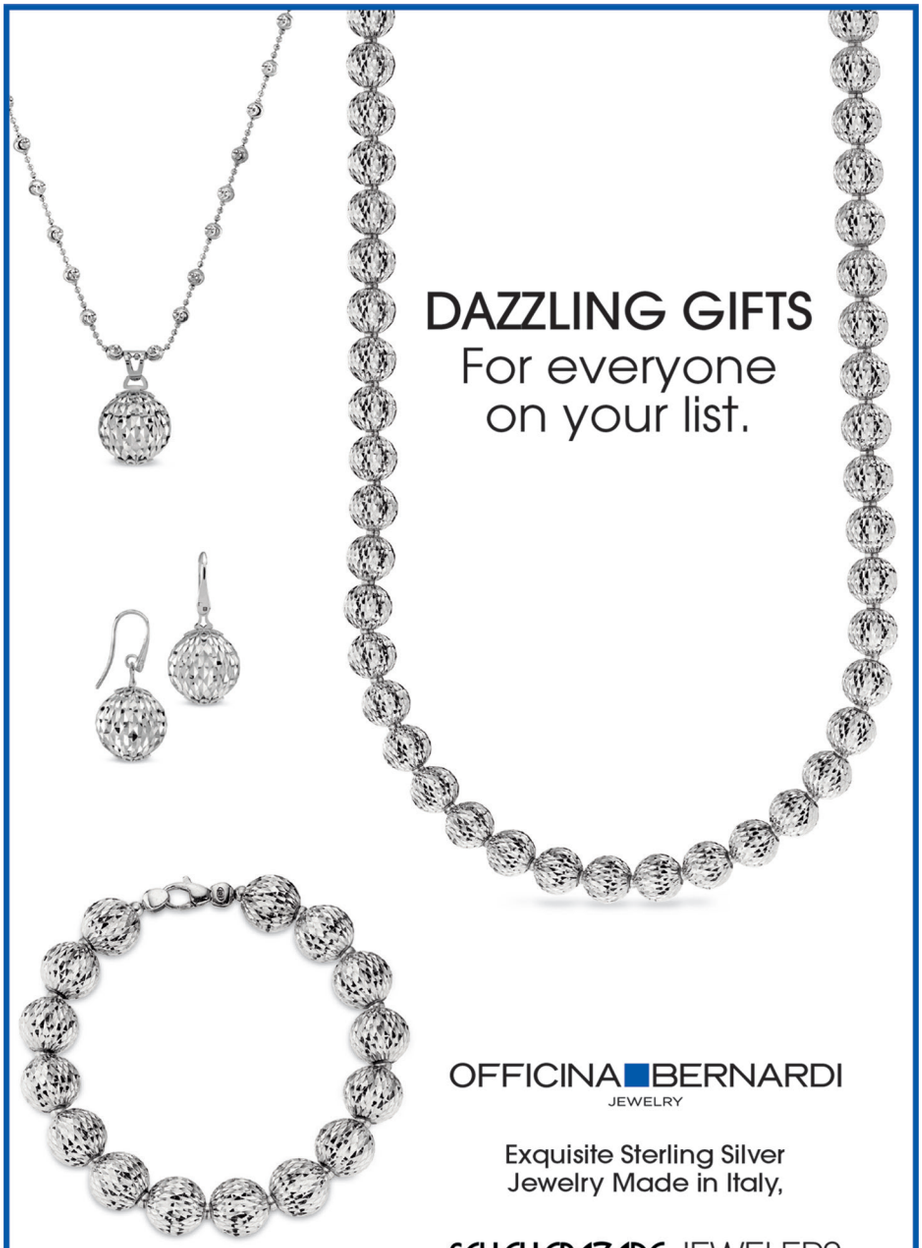
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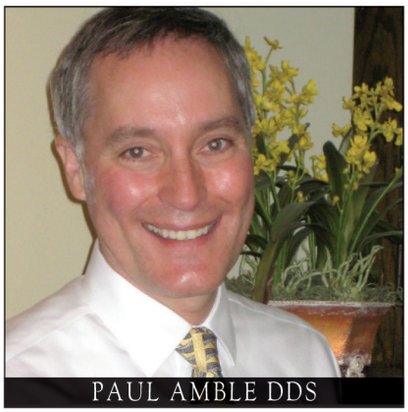
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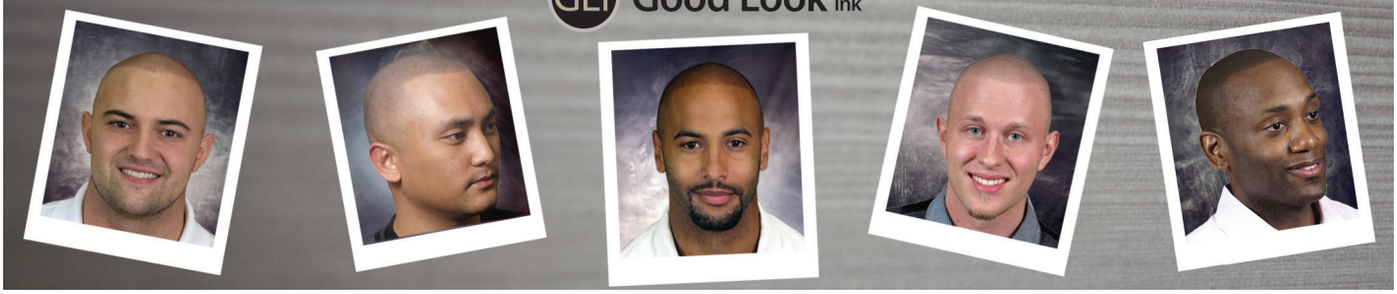


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FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

Raise a Toast

This is a celebratory issue. Pop the cork on the champagne and let's celebrate what 2015 has brought us as a community and as a publication. This issue gives us a chance to shine John Townsend's Spotlight on his performing arts favorites, salivate over Bradley Traynor's top five from Eat the Menu, and get revved up for Randy Stern's best Ride Reviews. Lavender Media looks back on a year of great developments, such as starting a new event called SCORE Thursdays for the sports-oriented as well as being proud of our softball team, the Big Gay Moose, for being the TCGSL Division 2 champions. As a publication, we were again one of the top five magazines in the state of Minnesota and we're pleased to have won a number of Minnesota Magazine & Publishing Association Excellence Awards. 2015 was a good year and we're happily raising a glass of bubbly to a bounty of shared successes.

Congratulations to the 2015 Lavender Community Award Winners. You were nominated. You were assessed. You were chosen to represent the community with this award. You illustrate how many different areas of life we can find work that needs to be done, people that need to be helped, organizations that need to be assisted in funding, word, or deed. You show us how many different ways we can be role models and fight the good fight. One of you, in particular, encouraged me to renew my Feminist Card for life and to continue fighting for the small potatoes. I am grateful for all of this. Every person in these pages has made a big difference in this community and we thank you for what you've done and continue to do. You are in these pages to remind us of how diverse this community is and to inspire us to emulate each other at our best and strive to understand each other when differences arise. And special thanks go to those who nominated you, so that we could shine the light on you and your work.

I'd like to personally raise a glass to Justin Jones, author of "Through These Eyes," who has written for nearly every issue of *Lavender* since just before I joined the company in 2011. This is his last issue writing for us as his life has led him to new adventures. He introduced me to countless people and industry talents. He started Lav.fash with Brandon McCray, and they brought both Kyle Lieberman and John Mark on board, all in a voluntary capacity and for the betterment of the magazine and our fashion reach. He has boundless ideas, empathy, introspection, and charm all wrapped into a wonderful man with shining eyes and a soft southern accent. I'll miss you Justin Jones. Thank you for sharing yourself with us. I wish you all the best.

And I wish you the best as well. Have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year. Our last issue of 2015 is the Lavender Yellow Pages, so the next time I write will be in 2016. I look forward to seeing you on the flipside.

With love and thanks,

Andy ■

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

It's Not Just Paris

Many have noted that the deaths of scores killed in a suicide bombing in a Beirut suburb on November 12 did not merit the coverage given the 130 murders occurring the following day in Paris. It's hard to address that criticism without sounding dismissive of the Beirut victims, but let me give a personal example.

A little girl fell down a narrow well in San Marino, California. I stayed glued to the radio reportage, anxiously asking my dad if she would be safe. She wasn't. I was broken-hearted. The child was three; I was seven; the year, 1948. And I still remember Kathy Fiscus.

As empathetic as one is, one can't help experiencing a greater anguish over a tragedy hitting closer to home, or to someone like oneself. Paris represents an iconic something, an association that much of the world — especially the United States — holds with the City of Light. Back in the day, when the diplomatic world spoke French, Ben Franklin was doted upon by the cream of Parisian society; Thomas Jefferson lived there for five years. And, travelled there or not, we're all steeped in images of the Eiffel Tower, Gene Kelly in *An American in Paris*, the high fashions of Lanvin and Chanel.

The November 20 *New York Times* ran photographs and short bios of a number of the Parisian victims; architect, student, father, music fan. We would feel the same empathy for similar images of the Beruit dead, also students, wives, husbands, children.

How to relate, then, when tragedy hits far away, in an unfamiliar place, to people to whom one has no direct connection? How to connect to all suffering, whether terrorist attack, Ebola outbreak, or meteorological destruction?

Use the lens of the known. If you can imagine dining at a Minneapolis sidewalk café, you can imagine Parisians or Lebanese enjoying the same thing on a late autumn evening. Knowing how tightly you hold your children or loved ones, you can experience, if only a fraction, the suffering of a Syrian refugee father, in tears, clinging to his small children in a cold sea.

We've not seen the last of the attacks, and we must find the compassion to reach out beyond ourselves to those who now, and will, need aid and protection. ■



INDICATION

INDICATION and IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION for ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate [DF])

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood)**. Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.**

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) have developed serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.**

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don't feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a "flare-up" of your hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

*Undetectable was defined as a viral load of fewer than 400 copies/mL.
†In this study, 511 adult patients new to therapy received either the meds in ATRIPLA each taken once daily or Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine) twice daily + SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) once daily.
‡Symphony Health Solutions, Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, equivalized counts, July 2006 – June 2015.



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SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.**
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.**
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse.** ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Please see below for more information about these warnings, including signs and symptoms, and other Important Safety Information.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Ask your doctor about ATRIPLA today.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA.** Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with efavirenz, one of the medicines in ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective.
- **Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV and some of the medicines in ATRIPLA through their milk to the baby. It is not known if ATRIPLA could harm your baby.
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.** Seizures have occurred in patients taking efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, generally in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA should not be taken with: Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA® (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine), Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Important Safety Information is continued on the following page.

Please see Patient Information on the following pages.

ATRIPLA®
(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

POWER TO HELP YOU BE UNDETECTABLE

ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)
Important Safety Information (continued)

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your bones or may prescribe medicines to help your bones.

Common side effects:

- Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach; they tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. These symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs.
- If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.
- Rash is a common side effect with ATRIPLA that usually goes away without any change in treatment. Rash may be serious in a small number of patients. **Rash occurs more commonly in children and may be a serious problem.** If a rash develops, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Other common side effects include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. Increase of fat in the upper back and neck, breasts, and around the trunk may happen. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these changes in body fat are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

You should take ATRIPLA once daily on an empty stomach. Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.

Please see Full Prescribing Information, including **"What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA"** in the Patient Information section.

Please see Patient Information on adjacent and following pages.

Bristol-Myers Squibb

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Patient Information **℞ ONLY**

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ATRIPLA.

Please also read the section **"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA."**

Generic name: efavirenz, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (eh FAH vih renz, em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ATRIPLA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:**
- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity,** with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a "flare-up" of your hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys $CD4^+$ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells

(CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant** (see "What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?").
- **Are breastfeeding** (see "What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?").
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, **it is very important to** let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), Sporanox (itraconazole), or Victrelis (boceprevir); **these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Isoptin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline); **dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), Prezista (darunavir) with Norvir (ritonavir), or Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA, Prezista, and Norvir together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.
- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Tegretol (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

How should I take ATRIPLA?

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.

- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
  - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
  - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
  - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity),** with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection,** in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the "flare-up" of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.
- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

Common side effects:

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body's immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

How do I store ATRIPLA?

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about ATRIPLA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about ATRIPLA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ATRIPLA that is written for health professionals.

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?

Active Ingredients: efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive Ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

Revised: January 2015

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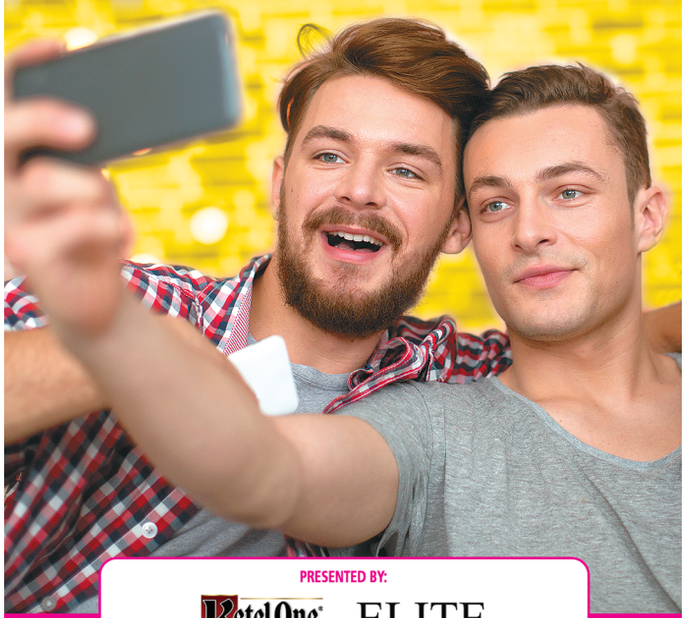
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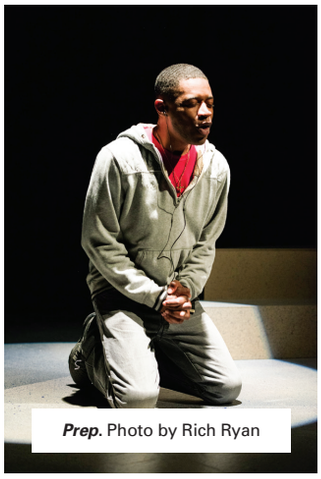
2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

PERFORMING ARTS

By John Townsend

BEST PRODUCTIONS

1. *One Arm,* New Epic Theater
2. *The Crucible,* Guthrie Theater
3. *Equus,* Theatre Coup D'etat
4. *The Jungle Book*, Children's Theatre Company
5. *Jericho,* Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company
6. *Juno and the Paycock,* Guthrie Theater
7. *Prep,* Pillsbury House Theatre
8. *Hairspray,* Artistry
9. *Choir Boy,* Guthrie Theater
10. (3-way tie)
MR. BURNS: a post-electric play, Guthrie Theater
Hir, Mixed Blood Theatre
Emily/Eurydice, Transatlantic Love Affair, Illusion Theater



Prep. Photo by Rich Ryan

THEATER ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

- Lauren Anderson, Actress-Collaborator for *Mad Max: Beyond Measledome, 50 Shades of Gravy, Junk from our Trunk*, *The Trump Who Stole Christmas,* Brave New Workshop
- Craig Johnson, Director: *Civil War Homecoming*, Fitzgerald Theater; *Boeing Boeing*, Torch Theater; *The Matchmaker*, Girl Friday Productions. Actor: *Death and the Maiden,* Torch Theater & Gremlin Theatre; *One Arm*, New Epic Theater



One Arm. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp



The Crucible. Photo by Charles Erickson

BEST DIRECTOR

Joe Dowling, *The Crucible* and *Juno and the Paycock*, Guthrie Theater

BEST DRAMATIC ACTRESS

Stacia Rice, *Death and the Maiden*, Torch Theater & Gremlin Theatre

BEST MUSICAL ACTRESS

Ann Michels, *Mary Poppins*, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres

BEST COMEDIC ACTRESS

Crystal Fox, *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark!,* Penumbra Theatre

BEST DRAMATIC ACTOR

Charles Numrich, *Equus*, Theatre Coup D'etat

BEST MUSICAL ACTOR (TIE)

Rich Hamson & Jim Pounds, *La Cage Aux Folles*, Artistry

BEST COMEDIC ACTOR

Dustin Bronson, *Hir*, Mixed Blood Theatre

BEST SUPPORTING DRAMATIC ACTRESS

Miriam Schwarz, *Jericho*, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company

BEST SUPPORTING MUSICAL ACTRESS

Norah Long, *Sister Act*, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres

BEST SUPPORTING COMEDIC ACTRESS

Mo Perry, *Boeing, Boeing*, Torch Theater



Pussy Valley. Photo by Rich Ryan

BEST SUPPORTING DRAMATIC ACTOR
James A. Williams, *Akeelah and the Bee,* Children's Theatre Company

BEST SUPPORTING MUSICAL ACTOR: (TIE)
Logan Greene, *Calvin Berger,* Minneapolis Musical Theatre; Dane Stauffer, *Glensheen*, History Theatre

BEST SUPPORTING COMEDIC ACTOR
Raye Birk, *You Can't Take It With You*, Jungle Theater

BEST CROSS-GENDER PERFORMANCE (TIE)
Nicco Annan, *Pussy Valley*, Mixed Blood Theatre; Jean Wolff, *The Coward*, Walking Shadow Theatre Company

BEST SOLO PERFORMANCE
James Craven, *Thurgood*, Illusion Theater

BEST MULTIPLE-ROLE PERFORMANCE
Nathaniel Fuller, *The Woman in Black*, Yellow Tree Theatre

BEST CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE
Anna Sundberg, *Henry IV, Part I*, 10,000 Things Theater Company

BEST NEW QUEER PLAY AND PRODUCTION
Getting to Ellen, BOOM! Theater

BEST REVIVAL OF A QUEER CLASSIC
Gertrude Stein and a Companion, Jungle Theater



Akeelah and the Bee. Photo by Dan Norman



Thurgood. Photo by Lauren B. Photography

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Choir Boy. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME PERFORMANCES

- Lauren Davis, *Oliver!,* Hennepin Theatre Trust-Theater Latte Da
- Danny Binstock and Stacey Bono, *The Music Man*, Guthrie Theater
- Johanna Easley, *Akeelah and the Bee,* Children's Theatre Company
- Kory LaQuess Pullam, *Prep,* Pillsbury House Theatre
- Kevin Fanshaw, *Equus,* Theater Coup D'etat
- Regina Marie Williams, *Sister Act,* Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
- John-Michael Lyles, *Choir Boy,* Guthrie Theater
- Adam Whisner, *A Bright New Boise*, Loudmouth Collective and *The Woodsman*, Theatre Pro Rata
- Erik Heger, *The Crucible*, Guthrie Theater
- Shanan Custer and Charles Hubbell, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, Casting Spells Productions
- Jessica Lind Peterson, *Next to*



Hairspray. Photo by Vicki Madsen



Equus. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp

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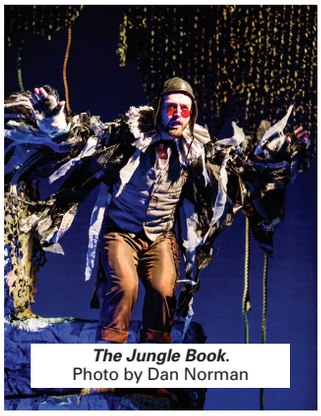
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Normal, Yellow Tree Theatre
- Sam Bardwell, *Things of Dry Hours*, Frank Theatre
- Torsten Johnson, *One Arm*, New Epic Theater
- Sara Marsh, *Extremities*, Dark & Stormy Productions
- Summer Hagen, *God Girl*, History Theatre
- Thomasina Petrus, *The Gospel of Lovingkindness*, Pillsbury House Theatre
- Ryan M. Lindberg, *Jericho*, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company
- Anna Sundberg, *For the Loyal*, Illusion Theater

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY
Michael Matthew Ferrell, *Hairspray*, Artistry

BEST MUSICAL DIRECTION
Anita Ruth, *Hairspray*, Artistry

BEST COSTUMES
Immanuel Elliott, *Vile Affections*, Gadfly Productions



The Jungle Book. Photo by Dan Norman

BEST SET DESIGN
Joe Stanley, *The Jungle Book*, Children's Theatre Company

BEST SOUND DESIGN
Peter Vitale, *Henry IV, Part I*, 10,000 Things Theater Company

BEST LIGHTING
Nancy Schertler, *The Jungle Book*, Children's Theatre Company



Wrestling Jerusalem. Photo by Ken Friedman



Things of Dry Hours. Photo by Tony Nelson

BEST STAGE COMBAT DIRECTION
Annie Enneking, *Extremities*, Dark & Stormy Productions; *Henry IV, Part I*, 10,000 Things Theater; *The Jungle Book*, Children's Theatre Company

BEST NEW PLAYWRITING
Kristine Holmgren, *God Girl,* History Theatre

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATER MUSIC AND LYRICS
Chan Poling, *Glensheen*, History Theatre

SUPERIOR TEAM ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRICAL DESIGN INNOVATION
Katrina Benedict, David Cook, Ken Grosch, Lisa V. Kudas & Matt Kudas, *Lemonade for the Lawnboy: The Musical*, Minnetonka Theatre

SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP
- Philip Bither, Senior Curator of Performing Arts, Walker Art Center
- Julie Voigt, Senior Program Officer, Walker Art Center
- Tom Hoch, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hennepin Theatre Trust

BEST SHOW FROM OUT OF TOWN
Pippin, national tour at Orpheum Theatre

BEST PERFORMANCES FROM OUT OF TOWN
- Kyle Taylor Parker, *Kinky Boots*, national tour at Orpheum Theatre
- Aaron Davidman, *Wrestling Jerusalem*, Guthrie Theater

BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE FROM OUT OF TOWN
Priscilla Lopez, *Pippin*, national tour at Orpheum Theatre ■


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2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

FOOD

By Bradley Traynor

I've eaten a lot of menus this year and, you know what? They were all pretty damn good. That's saying something. Of all the brand new restaurants I've been to in 2015, I'm hardpressed to think of one I wouldn't revisit. What I'm not hardpressed to do, however, is share my faves with you. If the plethora of new dining options seems daunting, use my list as a crib sheet. Pick one or two and make an effort to get out there and try something new. Oh, and stay tuned. 2016 is right around the corner and that means a heaping helping of new menus to eat.

NIGHTHAWKS

You know how everybody can't stop raving about the Parlour Burger? I'm over here like, HAVE YOU HAD THE BURGER AT NIGHTHAWKS?! I assure you my use of all caps is justified. This heavenly cheese-festooned meat party is sandwiched within what is likely my favorite bun of all time. Everything else I tried on the menu was great, but, frankly, after I ate the burger I blacked out the rest of my meal. For what it's worth, I do seem to remember dessert (Blondie Frostbite — think a Blizzard unlike any you've gotten at DQ) sending me into a welcomed sugar coma.







Photos by Hubert Bonnet

IL FORO

Downtown Minneapolis is full of gimmicky dining experiences catering to people who care more about ambience than appetite. What it's lacking, however, is an artful expression of both. Lucky for you, dear foodie, there's Il Foro. Flooded with the ambiance of its historic architectural pedigree along with some of the best modern Italian cuisine you'll find in this town, Il Foro is the perfect place for downtown date night. And happy hour. And casual weekend nosh. Make every effort to walk around the place, as well. The amazing art deco elements bring about a bygone era that's just as delicious as the menu.





Photos by Mike Hnida

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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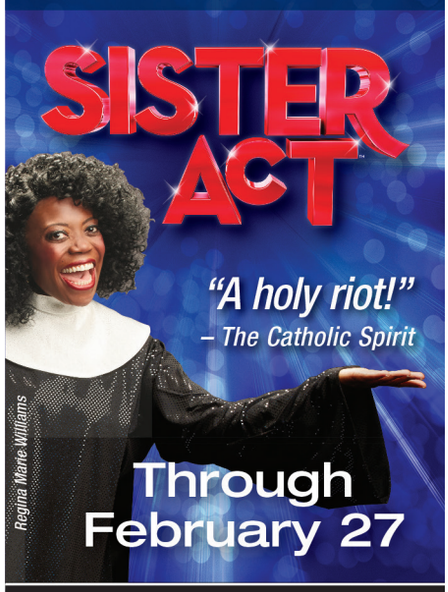
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EASTSIDE

The Snake River flat iron steak is still on my mind. It's been weeks, but I need it again. Along with the fried chicken sandwich on a pretzel bun that I missed on my first trip and was summarily tortured by after a friend inhaled one shortly on a subsequent trip. Another gem in a growing downtown crown of eatery elegance, Eastside makes the perfect pre-/post-Guthrie gathering place (and personal kitchen for anyone fortunate to live above the fun in the Latitude 45 building).





Photos by Hubert Bonnet

PILGRIMAGE

I have a sweet spot for anyone who opens a restaurant in South Minneapolis. Correction: I have a sweet spot for anyone who opens a GOOD restaurant in South Minneapolis. Chef Craig Ball gets high marks for bringing his international comfort food concept to my neck of the woods. You can quite literally take a tour of the globe via a menu rich with unique, yet utterly satisfying dishes, like the Chimichurri Philly, chilaquiles, and an eggs benedict all the way from Paraguay. Whatever you do, don't miss out on the "donuts." These sinful pockets of creme-filled pastry left a lasting impression on titillated taste buds.



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

6SMITH

You better have a pretty good reason to get me all the way out to Wayzata. Yes, it's beautiful and, yes, it's charming, but we've got charm in Minneapolis too. What Minneapolis doesn't have, however? A Fat Burger. This beefy beauty is layered with bacon and onion jam, Fini cheddar fondue, Neuske's bacon, and American cheese, all stuffed into a brown butter brioche bun. And it's totally worth the drive. I can't think of a better date night than noshing burgers (or steaks or any of the hefty menu's worth of entrées) against the backdrop of beautiful Lake Minnetonka. OMG, I almost forgot the chocolate brownie sundae! Don't forget the chocolate brownie sundae. You're welcome. ■





Photos by Hubert Bonnet



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2015 LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS / Produced by Andy Lien / Written by Shane Lueck

The Lavender Community Awards are our new version of the Lavender 100 and the Pride Awards. Recipients of this year's awards were nominated and voted for online throughout the month of November. Winners demonstrate clear dedication and leadership by being either out or an ally and working for the advancement of the community that is comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied people. Without further ado, we are proud to present the recipients of the 2015 Lavender Community Awards.

Dot Beltsler

Organizational Involvement:
TWIN CITIES PRIDE, TWIN CITIES QUORUM, INTERPRIDE, MN COUNCIL OF NONPROFITS, MN FESTIVALS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATION

Working tirelessly as the executive director of Twin Cities Pride, Dot Belstler strives to create a safe space for people to come together, not only to celebrate, she says, but to tell stories, embrace the community's history, and expose the larger community to issues concerning the LGBTQ community. "I do this work for that person who is coming to their first Pride celebration and realizes they are not alone," she says. "That there is a community here willing to embrace them and help them on their journey. Creating safe space is very important to me. I want the entire LGBTQ community to find space and feel that they belong at Twin Cities Pride." For Belstler, inspiration comes from the volunteers who support Twin Cities Pride. In addition to their own "day jobs," they volunteer countless hours for Pride, often using paid time off or rescheduling their hours over Pride week to create the celebrations. For the foreseeable future, Belstler will be continually working to position Twin Cities Pride as one of the Pride celebrations everyone needs to attend. She says, "We have an amazing community here and I want to share it with the world."



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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Mili Dutta

Organizational Involvement:
OUT IN THE BACKYARD, ALLINA'S BACKYARD INITIATIVE, CULTURAL WELLNESS CENTER, XUKIA (GLBT ORGANIZATION IN ASSAM, INDIA)

Working as an IT professional ("to feed my stomach") and a community organizer ("to feed my soul"), Mili Dutta builds connections both in the Twin Cities and India. "Every time I come back to the U.S.A., I feel lonely," Dutta says. "I feel our LGBT community is disconnected and has lots of high risk activities. I want to build community, where gay or straight, black or white or brown, we all could be together." In 1994, Dutta came to the U.S. with $500 in hand and two suitcases and has since risen to become an activist in South Minneapolis, organizing an annual fundraiser that supports women's economic empowerment and organic farming in rural Assam, India. "In everything I do, I stay focused on a healthy LGBT community in South Minneapolis and women's empowerment in Assam," Dutta says. "These are the two most important areas to my life…they are my passion." Dutta's dream is to build bridges between Minneapolis and Assam, creating a healthier community in both locations. "I am going to open a space for the LGBT community in my home town, Assam. I am starting a fair trade social entrepreneurship and will import goods/arts from the villages that I support and make the goods available here in Minneapolis."

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Krista Esterling Photography

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Chad Kampe

Organizational Involvement:
MID-CONTINENT OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE, OUTFRONT MN, THE ALIVENESS PROJECT, FAMILY TREE CLINIC, SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Flip Phone serves as an opportunity for the community to come together and interact in new spaces, and as the self-described "CEO of fun" for Flip Phone Chad Kampe is in charge of creating welcoming and inviting spaces for everyone. "Everyone needs to dance it out," he says. Kampe, who works as the executive director for Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI), says he always thought that everyone needs fun in their life. "Flip Phone provides that outlet for me and the community. As for MOI, I enjoy watching volunteers help students overcome difficulties. We all have the power to make a change in this community." With his husband by his side ("He guides me through all major decisions."), Kampe is on track to use fun and dance to create change. In the future, Kampe would love to see MOI reach two or three thousand students. "Additionally, I'd like to publish a book written by LGBT high school students," he says. "Finally, I want to continue bringing Flip Phone dance parties to unexpected locations."



Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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Tawnya "Sweetpea" Konobeck

Organizational Involvement:
PFUND, OUTFRONT MINNESOTA, COLU.MN, RAINBOW HEALTH INITIATIVE, BURLESQUE HALL OF FAME, FOUNDER OF GROWN & SEXY AND THE VIGILANTEASE COLLECTIVE, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF BLACK LIVES MATTER MINNEAPOLIS

Tawnya Konobeck (or Sweetpea, as many know her) wears many hats: event planner and producer (Sweet Soiree Events & Entertainment), burlesque entertainer (Sweetpea), and performance teacher and personal trainer (Studio Sweet). All the work she does boils down to creating safe, sexy, and entertaining spaces for communities to gather, to take a break from the work we're all constantly doing in the world, and celebrate life and one another. "I use the visibility and popularity of Sweetpea to spread messages of equality, love, and wellness," she says. As a teacher and trainer, Konobeck works to reconnect people with their bodies and coach them in ways to care for them. She says, "In my eyes, self care is a form of radical activism, especially within the GLBTQI community. Our bodies are the vehicles we have in this life in which to do our work; if we're our healthiest and happiest selves, our impact will be the most potent and with exceptional endurance."

Photo by Dennis Driscoll



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Nikolas Martell

Organizational Involvement:
OUTSPOKEN!, BUTTON POETRY, THE FOX EGG GALLERY, WORD SPROUT, GADFLY THEATRE, PATRICK'S CABARET, 20% THEATRE COMPANY TWIN CITIES

Nikolas Martell works as a professional performance and visual mediums artist, but his focus has shifted over time from performing his own works as a form of engagement, to facilitating space and opportunities for others to express themselves. "I also strive to incorporate resources and information into the programming I do, and to create spaces where people can have the difficult conversations that we need to have," he says. "I also dedicate myself to building creative networks between queer and intersecting organizations and individuals, with particular attention to queer identity and mental health groups." When Martell was growing into his identities as a queer, aneurotypical person, creative spaces were both critical and challenging for him. "I found community but I also found division," he says. "Now that I am in a more solid place with myself, I want to give back not just by sustaining the spaces that were good to me but by challenging those which were not and by creating entirely new spaces as well." For now, Martell continues his empowerment work through creative expression and stays open to whatever opportunities and challenges may come.



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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Organizational Involvement:
TWIN CITIES QUORUM, MINNESOTA AIDS PROJECT, PROJECT 515, DIVA|MN, THE ALIVENESS PROJECT, OPEN ARMS OF MINNESOTA, CLARE HOUSING, AIDS RIDES, AMERICAN EXPRESS PRIDE NETWORK, HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

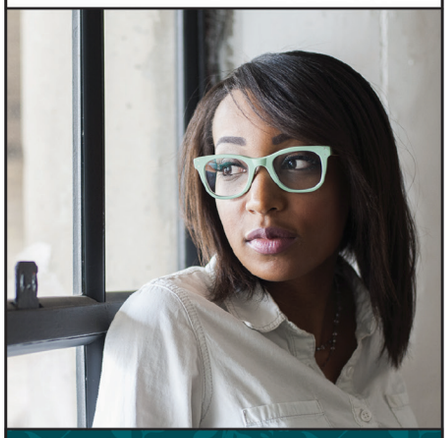
"I like to think that I'm a connector between a cause and those that would like to help," Mike Cassidy says. He and Lee Roehl are partners at ROR Tax Professionals, a workplace that is a strategic business partner with Twin Cities Quorum, sponsoring important community events such as the Annual National Coming Out Day Luncheon. Roehl, a founder of ROR Tax Professionals in 1991, is identified as the Queen of Queries on the business website and jokes that dancing, cooking, Quorum, and non-profits tend to keep him off the street. Cassidy says, "It makes a difference to me that folks can lead better, more authentic lives when more folks engage in the things that make community work." The two show no signs of slowing down, and who knows what the future holds? According to Cassidy, "I always say my crystal ball is cloudy, but I know I'll always be involved in our community."



Photo by Hubert Bonnet







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Steve Schmitz

Organizational Involvement:
ALL GOD'S CHILDREN METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH'S PRAISE BAND, MINNESOTA SYMPHONIC WINDS, BRIDGE FOR YOUTH

Since coming out at 22, Steve Schmitz says 95 percent of the people in his life have been extremely loving and supportive. "I know that is NOT the norm and I am extremely grateful," he says. "I try to turn that gratefulness into service. I am devoted to following Christ's example and know that he loved everyone and often hung out with people on the margins of society." As a high school band and world drumming teacher, Schmitz is committed to proudly standing up for injustices, whether talking to students, family, friends, or strangers. "I volunteer time and money to LGBT organizations because, as a kid, I never thought I would have a happy life as a gay person," he says. "To express my gratitude, I now give back to make sure others have hope of a happy life." With his work, Schmitz will continue to try to live up to his motto of building better people through excellence in music, hoping to build an excellent music program at his school in St. Louis Park. Schmitz and his husband are also seriously looking into hosting a young person in need with the GLBT Host Home program with Avenues for Homeless Youth.



Photo courtesy of Steve Schmitz



Connie Statz

Organizational Involvement:
CAMP BENEDICT

In 1981, Connie Statz was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS after receiving blood carrying HIV during a medical procedure. After discovering her disease, Connie knew that this was a moment to continue living and to create her own voice. Connie is the founder of Camp Benedict, a camp where people living with HIV/AIDs can come together for a week every year. Though Statz passed this year, her legacy lives on. Tassy Singer, the daughter of a woman who was helped by Camp Benedict, says, "If I had to define her occupation I would say she was a healer. She was amazing at being around others and making them comfortable." Though Statz identified as a heterosexual woman, she was an ally, working to defeat the stigma around HIV. "I believe she did what she did to help people; to make them aware and when possible ease their pain and suffering," Singer says. "Letting people know that they are not alone despite how it feels at times. Even when their friends and families turned their backs due to ignorance, she wanted to show love!" Keith Pederson, a writer for the documentary *Putting the Ribbon Back On*, detailing Statz' life and work with Camp Benedict, says, "Many of us remember our first experience at camp and how it was at once terrifying and exhilarating. Connie was able to make the terrifying go away." He continues, "She will be missed by so many, but, fondly remembered and never that far away."

Photo by Richard Louprasong

Minnesota Lynx

Organizational Involvement:
VARIOUS LGBT ADVOCACY GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE TWIN CITIES, NOTABLY TWIN CITIES PRIDE

The Lynx (and the WNBA as a whole) are proud and visible supporters of the community, marketing to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender fans to come out to games. "The Minnesota Lynx is more than just basketball," says Ashley Carlson, Lynx public relations manager. "The organization is all about acceptance and inclusion as well as being positive role models throughout the community." As Carlson states, what the Lynx do for the community is also in the form of simply being role models. Perhaps primarily. And nothing tests a role model's character more than trial and hardship. This was a challenging year for the Lynx, yet the team prevailed to win their third championship title, becoming the first pro sports team from Minnesota to win a league title on its home court (or ice or







Photos by Sophia Hantzes









field) since the 1991 Twins. Of the three titles, this was the sweetest, because it was so hard. The Lynx dealt with injuries and with the midseason additions of Sylvia Fowles, Anna Cruz, and Renee Montgomery. The team went 6-6 in August, limping to the finish of the regular season. Add to it the discussion about the age of three of the four members of their core and doubts about how much longer they can play. Indeed, the Lynx have proven themselves in the face of adversity as worthy role models who can overcome to win the championship. "The GLBT community has proven to be huge supporters and fans of the Minnesota Lynx and the organization wants to give back to its fans," Carlson says. "The Lynx organization prides itself on having a welcoming environment for all its fan base and they want everyone to come together." For the future, Carlson says the Lynx will continue to support the GLBT community and embrace all the fans while continuing to win championships.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46



photo by sophia hantzes



2015 LAVENDER COMMUNITY AWARDS



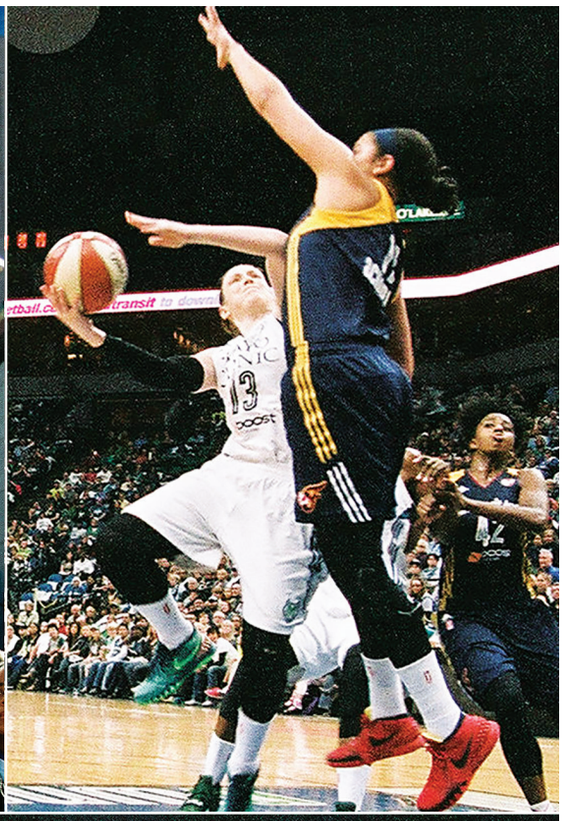
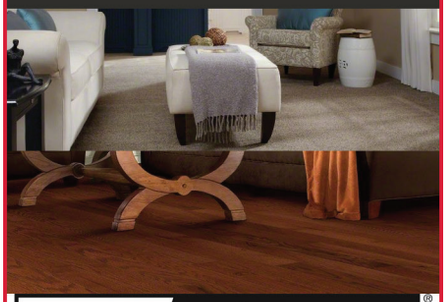




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2015 PERSON OF THE YEAR(S) / By George Holdgrafer

Tim Campbell's

HALF-CENTURY OF GAY ACTIVISM

Tim Campbell is *Lavender*'s 2015 Person of the Year(s). This year saw the greatest victory ever for the gay community, the Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage throughout America. Thus, it's appropriate to recognize Campbell now for his half-century of gay activism that helped pave the way for such a victory.

Born in 1939, Campbell became passionately involved in the gay community when he relocated from Texas to Minnesota in the turbulent decade of the 1960s before the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in New York City, a catalyst for gay liberation. From 1979 to 1992, he was publisher and editor of the *GLC Voice* newspaper, the first successful local gay publication, which he founded as a venue for gay advocacy journalism. Two accomplishments during that 13-year tenure stand out. First, his relentless coverage of the AIDS crisis and promotion of safe sex saved countless lives. Second, his championing of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution during the local Andrea Dworkin/Catharine MacKinnon anti-pornography crusade in 1983 well served the Minnesota gay community. Ever a gay activist, Campbell is now retired in Texas.

Full disclosure: Three decades ago, on November 4, 1985, Tim Campbell hired me as his assistant at the GLC Voice, which launched my now 30-year-tenure in gay publishing. I have always considered this gay pioneer to be my wise mentor.



Photo courtesy of Pete Wagner and *GLC Voice*

You are best known as the publisher and editor of the *GLC Voice* newspaper in the Twin Cities for 13 years, which you often called advocacy journalism. What did it accomplish during those years?

Tim Campbell: Every two weeks, the *GLC Voice* newspaper placed 15,000 copies of a gay newspaper on over 100 strategically placed newsstands throughout the Twin Cities. We hit college campuses to reach the young, government buildings to reach the politicos, and gay and lesbian bars to reach our core constituency. The *GLC Voice* was a billboard that taught the Twin Cities that we had a big and active community with all kinds of things happening. We fostered all those activities.

What was your first awareness of your gay identity, your coming-out experience, and your initial involvement in gay activism?

TC: I knew I was fem before I was eight. My coming-out experience was in early 1962 at the draft call-up. Still a virgin, I was asked by Uncle Sam if I had "homosexual tendencies." I checked the YES box. They required a visit to a psychologist. I got a 1-Y draft qualification. My seminary got notified.

The psychologist sent the bill to my parents. Every time I filled out a job application from 1962 until 1973 or later, the application asked, "What's your draft status." I answered, "1-Y." There was a time when the Army asked, and some of us told.

In one of your finest hours, how did you champion the First Amendment rights of adult establishments such as bookstores, especially during the Andrea Dworkin and Catharine MacKinnon antipornography crusade in Minneapolis in 1983?
TC: In fact, when I see the word "finest" and the name "Andrea Dworkin" in the same sentence, I smile.

GH: When you were again at your best, what was your contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Minnesota in the 1980s, particularly your insistence that condom use during sex would prevent the disease?
TC: Tricia Fabry (who, sadly, passed away recently), a regular illustrator for the *GLC Voice*, created an eye-catching poster in yellow, white, and black with a hot guy (she was actually the model!) bending over to drop his pants, with the simple message: "Use condoms and live." As well as printing it in the newspaper, we had several hundred copies of the poster printed, and gave them out to all the bars and gay gathering spots. Many of them stayed on walls in the bars and men's rooms for several years.

You are the only person in the gay press to whom famed local gay activists Jack Baker and Michael McConnell, the local gay men who were the first to attempt to be legally married in the United States in the early 1970s, would grant access over the past three decades. What are your memories of them?
TC: They taught me in 1970, while we were doing sensitivity training on gay issues for the University of Minnesota Department of Education, that our goal was to change the way people think about gayness. Jack predicted that it would take 50 years, but that if lots of new college grads helped, we could and would do that. And we did. Jack and Mike are our number-one superheroes.

Although you have described yourself as a feminist, you have had a strained relationship with the lesbian community at times. Why?
TC: I think your question is unfair. Who defines "the lesbian community"? It speaks not with just one voice, as you oversimplify. Lots of lesbians supported my work and worked for the *GLC Voice*. Only those lesbians oppose me who basically see all men as the enemy, because my priorities are gay- or homosexual-rights issues. Their priorities are women first and *über alles* [above all]. They have the problem.

In 1985, in your only foray into politics, you ran for mayor of Minneapolis on the Independent Demoblican ticket (a clever spoof on the Democratic and Independent Republican parties). What is your view of the role of politics for the gay community?
TC: Anything that gets in the news and reminds the world that gays are citizens cures the idea that we are perverts.

You grew up Catholic and attended a Catholic seminary, yet you later became an atheist. Did your atheism impact your gay activism?
TC: Yes and no. My atheism is based on the search for evidence for theories and other beliefs…always pursuing accurate knowledge. Antigay bigotry is just one example of how people's beliefs tend to be made up out of whole cloth as opposed to based on evidence.

How will history (or historians) judge you now and in the future? What is your legacy for the gay community?
TC: For the next 20 years or more, feminists will be ruling court and revising history. Xenophobias seem to sweep across the continents in half-century waves. Feminist sense of superiority and entitlement will wane, as did Nazism. After 2050, gay men will probably be seen in a much better light, probably as equal to women once again.

In an article about you in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* in 1986, you called yourself the Moses of the Twin Cities gay community, predicting that like him, you would lead your people to the Promised Land but would not actually set foot there yourself. Would you say the same now, 29 years later?
TC: No. I think we've reached the Promised Land, and gays won. The rest is all small potatoes. ■

Twin Cities Pride thanks and congratulates all the 2015 Lavender Community Award Honorees for their leadership and contributions to the GLBT community.



PRIDE
TWIN CITIES



Krakow's main square on a Sunday afternoon. Photo by Carla Waldemar

Poland

POLIS PRIMER

Here I am in language boot camp: a week focused 24/7 on immersion in a foreign tongue. I had the easier role, however, here in the outback of Poland. We 20 Anglophones from the U.S., Britain, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and Australia, helped 20 Poles (professionals with a textbook grasp of the English language) to gain fluency and confidence in conversational English, interacting with accents of every stripe. (I, too, had trouble wading through the Irish lilt and Scottish burr.) The age gamut ran from a sweet Polish lass of 20 to a 70-something British gent.

After meeting up in Warsaw, we drove through corn and cabbage fields to a resort in a hamlet of two dozen houses centered around a beribboned Jesus on the roundabout and a convenience store the size of a closet. Lodging was free (free!) for us Anglos, as were meals, six to a table, three of each tongue. Polish beer cost $2, vodka was $1 a shot, so the evening's bar bills didn't pinch.

After a breakfast of cheese, sausage, pâté, yogurt, cereal, cukes and tomatoes, eggs, and the occasional (yea!) donut, we launched into a series of one-on-ones: free-ranging, hour-long conversations with a rotation of participants. The "How many children?" blah-blah soon gave way to more intense personal and cultural exchanges, like the Poles' high cost of leaving home (at age 35); differing views on Syrian refugees; one exec's frustration with the Catholic church, another's with a job search, and frank reminiscences about growing up under Soviet rule: "All black and gray — no color. Day-long queues when something was delivered to a store before we even knew what the 'something' was. Worst of all, no free talk: anyone could be an informer." In other words, no topics barred, and lasting friendships formed.

Chats were punctuated with activities in groups of six, which were presented with a scenario to work on: maybe, a failing restaurant had to reinvent itself, but how? Staff cuts? New menu? Publicity campaign? Each team presented its solutions to the rest of the group. Another day's exercise asked teams to choose the six most valuable people who ever lived to repopulate a destroyed planet (Einstein vs. Mother Teresa or Oprah, for instance).

Each Pole needed to prepare an individual presentation on the topic of his choice for the final day with the help of an Anglo mentor. Oksanna taught us about Ukrainian cooking; health-care professional Monika gave a power-point talk on the substandard ultrasound equipment used in Polish hospitals; Marta explained the challenges of mountain climbing; and Sojia prepared a mock job interview. We Anglos helped with nuances, correcting "I am exciting to meet you," "I come from a short family" (i.e., "small"), and "roads like Switzerland cheese."

After lunch, 90 minutes of free time to nap, read, or roam the countryside. And after dinner, game time. We formed teams for Trivial Pursuit and Pictionary or nutty skits. Then, the studious (or exhausted) headed for bed and the rest of us bellied up at the bar.

Was the experience challenging? You bet. Was it worth it? You bet, again. How else can someone like me venture to Poland and talk to anyone beyond waiters and taxi drivers — really get to know individuals on the other side of the globe? Maybe we'll meet up again someday (lots of invitations). For now, Facebook friends forever. For info, visit www.angloville.com.

BOOKEND YOUR ANGLOVILLE EXPERIENCE

WARSAW

Warsaw was savagely flattened by the Nazis in reprisal for the courageous but doomed Uprising of 1944, today relived in the Warsaw Uprising Museum's reenactment of that heroic 63-day struggle and life under the Nazi regime.

Facades of the charismatic Old Town have been rebuilt exactly as they stood in the 18th century; the main square vibrates with a lively mélange of outdoor cafés centering streets that meander to the castle, the cathedral, and homey restaurants celebrating the trinity of Polish

cooking: pierogi, borscht, and roast duck with red cabbage. From Sigismund's Column, honoring the king as he reigned in 1644, a lovely avenue nicknamed Beautiful Street gleams with Baroque facades such as the face of a church that harbors the heart of Poland's favorite son, composer Chopin. (Benches along the avenue play his melodies, as does the airport named in his honor.) Pick up a brochure or check www.freewalkingtour.com for a guided introduction to the Old Town and beyond.

We also joined a free tour of Jewish Warsaw, once second only to New York in Jewish residents — 400,000 before mass murders; 3,500 today. Our guide, Agata, led us to the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, rising from the site of a former synagogue, then on to Umschlagplatz, aka Transport Square (next stop: Auschwitz) and the engaging new Polin Museum, which interactively recounts 1,000 years of Polish Jewish history. Nearby stands a memorial statue to a spunky kid named Raymond Liebling, part of the Jewish Resistance. You might know him by his adopted name, Roman Polanski, who recreated the times in his film *The Piano*.

In a tour of communist Warsaw, our guide, Agnes, recounted her parents' dealings in black market dollars and hours spent in shops' queues as we walked by bleak Soviet Realism buildings to the former censor's office, then to the (unwanted) gift from Papa Stalin, the Palace of Culture and Science. We lunched at a milk bar (cheap, filling, and hostile, just as in Soviet times), then fled to the city's art museum to view marvelous altarpieces redeemed from medieval Polish churches, then a decade-by-decade history of Polish modern art.

KRAKOW

"There's nothing to see in Krakow!" declared our guide in Warsaw. Wrong. But she's right about the rivalry that sizzles between the former and present capital cities. Krakow's Main Square was teeming on a sunny Sunday, crowded with food stalls selling kebabs, pierogi, and beer aside a stage where senior songsters in national costume performed while hepcats in the crowd pranced a lively polka. At the top of every hour, eyes turn to the square's cathedral where, from a top spire, a trumpeter trills (yes, "The Trumpeter of Krakow" of storybook fame). Inside the church, majestic stained glass windows gleam in the sun.

This time it's the real deal, not reconstructed, for the Nazis conquered the city six days after the start of the war and kept it intact, including the vast Wawel Castle dominating the hilltop like a red brick Polish Pentagon. Near it, our Old Town walking tour led to the university, founded in 1369, where Copernicus once taught. It's close to the Franciscan church of Pope John Paul, whose stained glass windows are beauties of Art Nouveau.

The Jewish tour is one of the most popular, and moving, investigations of life before and during the war. Several synagogues remain, as does the medieval cemetery, and edifices that housed schools, hospitals, and social centers. Today the new Galicia Jewish Museum commemorates, in photographs, the Jewish synagogues, cemeteries, and other sites throughout the province destroyed by the Nazis, and the humiliations, and worse, these people endured.

Close to the major camp-transport site stands the Eagle Pharmacy, run by a Catholic pharmacist who saved many Jewish lives through his underground activity (firsthand accounts and photos from ghetto residents fill in the blanks), and, across the bridge, there's the now-famous factory of Oskar Schindler, another savior, open to tour. Beside it stands MOCAK, the city's museum of contemporary art. ■

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SPORTS | BY SHANE LUECK

Rohene Ward: From Competitor To Performer To Coach

Having competed four times at the U.S. Championships, Minnesota native Rohene Ward is no stranger to competitive figure skating. Ward spent 16 years competing for U.S. Figure Skating as a national and international competitor. He also competed for Puerto Rico and is the 2004 Puerto Rican national champion. But in recent years he switched gears into the performer and coach/teacher role.

Notably, in 2007, he co-coached Kirsten Olson, who played the role of Nikki Fletcher, the "Jumping Shrimp," in the Disney movie *Ice Princess*, and in recent years has been touring Europe with Holiday On Ice in various roles. Figure skating fans might know Ward for his recent work coaching and choreographing pieces for Jason Brown, 2015 Men's U.S. Nationals Champion and 2014 Olympic team event bronze medalist. For the 2016 U.S. National Championships being held at the Xcel Energy Center in January, Ward choreographed and will be performing in the opening ceremonies on January 21. He also has five students competing at the senior level: Jason Brown, Jordan Moeller, Ben Jalovick, Christina Cleveland, and Mariah Bell.

This is *Lavender*'s Year in Review Issue, and you've had a pretty great year, even being named 2015 Choreographer of the Year. What has the past year been like for you?

Rohene Ward: It's been really good, actually. A little overwhelming at times with the amount of work I've gotten this year, especially since receiving the award. My schedule has picked up this year and been really chaotic. I've been in and out everywhere, a lot of travel, working a lot of different venues, doing all kinds of seminars, workshops, and having little performances here and there.

How easy is it transitioning between the roles of performer/competitor and choreographer? How do the two roles impact each other for you?



Rohene Ward. Photo courtesy of U.S. Figure Skating

RW: Naturally, doing choreography impacted me for performing in shows. But I definitely think the transition going from competing to performing was really easy for me. But going from touring to teaching full time has been a huge adjustment for me. My time isn't my time anymore, it's everybody else's time. That philosophy alone is a shift; having to show up for somebody else has an extra level of responsibility. Now I'm not just thinking about myself. Before, if I didn't want to get up and go to rehearsal, it was on me, but now there are other people counting on me and I feel bad if I have to miss time on the ice.

What is your process like when you're creating a new piece?

RW: My process for my own students is — because I know how they skate and move, what they do well and don't do well — I start by listening to music. Just sitting at home listening to music that has something different and highlights something that they do well, and doesn't disguise what they don't do well, which is opposite of what a lot of choreographers do. When I was choreographing for Courtney Hicks, I needed to create something that would show off how strong and powerful and regal she is, and make her look beautiful. It's about highlighting qualities instead of hiding flaws. I don't understand why everyone does that. It's difficult to hide a flaw when you're having them do a flaw. Might as well have them do what they do well, and then everything is a highlight. When I'm creating a new piece, I hear the music first, and if a skater pops into my head when I hear the music, then I know it's for them. And then I start seeing colors and shapes and go from there. And then we get on the ice and start playing and having fun.

You've spent quite a bit of time performing with Holiday on Ice. Can you tell me a bit about the difference in dynamic between competition and performing in a show like Holiday on Ice? Do you have a preference?

RW: When I'm performing, I'm nervous. I'm not nervous about what people are going to think, I'm nervous about doing my job. But when I'm competing, I was too consumed with what people thought. Since I started performing in shows, it's easier to focus on my job. I'm able to stop caring about what other people think because [people I know] likely aren't in the town I'm visiting, and I also can't see the crowd with the performance lights and everything. It brings my nerves down. Hands down, performing is a favorite, they're not even comparable.

You've talked before about the ice as being a safety net for you growing up. Do you still feel a bit of that safety net when you step on the ice?

RW: Very much so. It's very prevalent every day. Between my mom and my dad, there are six kids. And I went to the worst public school in Minnesota, and our area had a lot of gang activity. But as soon as I stepped on the ice, it became a safety net. No one could touch me. ■

Be sure to catch Rohene Ward's performance at the 2016 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in St. Paul. For more information, visit www.2016uschampionships.com.

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FAITH | BY THOMAS EHNERT

It's My Life, Not a Lifestyle

One of my favorite T-shirts has in huge black letters, "It's my LIFE, not a lifestyle." I was talking recently to someone who says he is becoming disenchanted with the "gay lifestyle." This made me think through just what the "gay lifestyle" looks like among my friends:

Is it the married couple who just found out they're going to be foster parents?

Is it a friend who adopted a son, met someone who adopted a daughter, and now the two single parents are engaged?

Is it my friends who, having married, bought a starter home together, and spend their weekend doing housework and yardwork?

Is it my friend who has presented a TED Talk recently because of her successful business?

Is it friends who post weekly shots of their beautiful garden all through the seasons after spending Sunday morning doing yard work?

Is it a couple posting pictures of their cat all the time?

Is it a couple who moved out of their starter home and into a bigger home, and I helped them do an Ikea run to fill up the place?

Is it my friend who grieves the death of his husband?

Is it my friend who, recently diagnosed with HIV, donates his time to a clinic that does testing and counseling?

Is it my friend who posts pictures of his algebra homework (which he's doing on a Saturday night)?

Is it my friends who are priests?

Is it my friends who are up early every Sunday morning to play organ for the first Mass?

Is it my friends who are getting engaged and looking forward to starting a family?

Is it my friend, the philosophy major, with whom I sit and talk metaphysics over dinner?

Is it my friend who's developed his own clothing line that's far exceeding anything he ever imagined?

Is it my friend who is a professional gardener at the most expensive home in Minnesota?

Is it my friends who are married, posting pictures of the healthy dinners they cook together? (But there was one picture of a big conglomerated cookie that grew together as it baked. The caption read, of course, "I only had one!")

Is it me reading *Madeline* books with my son, teaching him piano, and walking through Loring Park teaching him about trees and flowers?

I hope the point has been made. What is the "gay lifestyle?" Is it not simply life?

Someone might scoff, "Look at the high rates of drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, smoking, and sexually transmitted diseases." All of that is true. It is not the symptom of a "lifestyle" that is wrong. It is the symptom of a subculture responding to oppression from family, friends, religion, society, and government. Even the laws tell us we are subhuman, so that in many places, our jobs and housing are still not protected. We are the only minority that faces the loss of family and the support of religion if our minority status becomes known. No wonder we use drugs, alcohol, smoking, and sex to cope. No wonder some of us can't handle the pressure, and we kill ourselves.

The traditional gathering place of the GLBT community — the bar — is not the summit of the "gay lifestyle." It is an important *part* of GLBT culture. We need places to gather as well where "everybody knows your name." When I hear "gay lifestyle," however, I hear "stereotype." And it is simply not true. My Facebook feed is not filled with pictures of people clubbing (although we do that too). My Facebook feed is filled with people expressing political opinions, gratitude for a beautiful day, goofy pictures with pets, descriptions of homework, excitement over a new home, a new relationship, or a new job.

So why do people cling to the stereotypes? For the same reason that Nazis advanced their stereotypes of Jews, the American government advanced its stereotype of Natives, the English advanced their stereotype of the Irish, and so forth. When one group can sub-humanize a minority, one of three things happen. People look down on the minority (the minority is "*sub*human" after all), benevolently seek to lift the minority up to the supposedly better level (again, the minority is "*sub*human" after all), or even get rid of the minority (send the minority to a ghetto or a death camp, shame them back into a closet, or stand idly by as they die of a virus).

Even the word, "lifestyle," sub-humanizes GLBT people, because we don't even get to have "lives." We just get to have "lifestyles." After all, if we just have lifestyles, one can leave a life*style*, but one can't leave a *life*. Those who speak of us as having lifestyles don't want to admit that our GLBT identity isn't just something we *do*. It is something we *are*, and we cannot stop being that. It's an essential part of our life.

Look back on this year for yourself, and look ahead to the next. What was part of your human, GLBT life, which you are thankful for? What good, creative, beautiful things would you like to do more of?

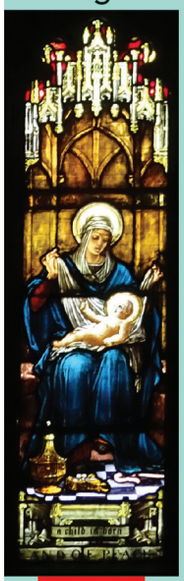
What I see in the "gay lifestyle," is simply life. Human life. Beautifully creative, human life. ■





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RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

The Best Ride Reviews of 2015



Ford F-150. Ford Mustang. Hyundai Tucson.

During the course of 2015, I had the privilege of bringing you some of the finest automobiles available in our readership area. They range from luxurious performance flagship sedans to some of the most popular vehicles sold today. For each one there is a story. I hope you were able to enjoy each "Ride Review" and were able to glean something toward buying one of these wonderful vehicles of your own.

Since this issue concentrates on the best of 2015, I found this one to be tougher than the last one. Simply, each one states its own case for being on this list. These just happen to be the ones that stood out the most throughout this past year.

FORD F-150: The best selling vehicle in this country was all changed for 2015. From its aluminum cab and box to an efficient new EcoBoost V6, this pickup may have put everyone else on notice. It enabled Ford to create a highly improved cabin that is better feeling and more comfortable. In all, customers will no longer need to compromise anything when selecting the right F-150 for their needs. This is one pickup truck to seriously consider.

FORD MUSTANG: The latest is the best of them all. With improved handling and an eye on the global market, there is nothing more rewarding than owning one. The addition of an EcoBoost four-cylinder engine also helps expand the Mustang's appeal toward being more efficient than ever. The intersection of heritage and modern technology and engineering is more than enough to consider a Mustang, including the new Shelby GT350 and GT350R, as the next coupe or convertible to own.

HYUNDAI TUCSON: Of all the vehicles driven for this magazine, this one came out as the most improved…and the most compelling. The 2016 Tucson puts Hyundai out front with its good road manners, efficient engine and transmission, and comfortable cabin laden with excellent technology. Though there is a lot of competition in this segment, selecting the right one is going to be tough. But, if you want something that offers fuel efficiency and space for everyone, this one is a good choice.

MASERATI QUATTROPORTE: There is nothing like driving an Italian car. There is the symphony of engine and exhaust noise. The touch of soft leather upholstery. The richness of old world craftsmanship. Yet, the Quattroporte is more new world than old. Rather, we call it modern. For being a modern flagship sedan, it is one where the throttle can be massaged for some excitement on the highway. Still, there is enough technology and connectivity to keep you engaged behind the wheel. That, alone, is today's Maserati.

PORSCHE PANAMERA: For years, the carmaker from Stuttgart could not justify making a four-door car for their customers. If they had to do it, it has to be done right. Shaped like the icon the company has as its flagship, the 911, the Panamera offers the long-awaited four-door car with Porsche's performance credentials. There are a lot of choices in the lineup ranging from a V6 base model to turbocharged V8 versions with up to 550 horsepower on tap to a plug-in hybrid version. Each Panamera is truly a Porsche worth driving.



Maserati Quattroporte. Porsche Panamera.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

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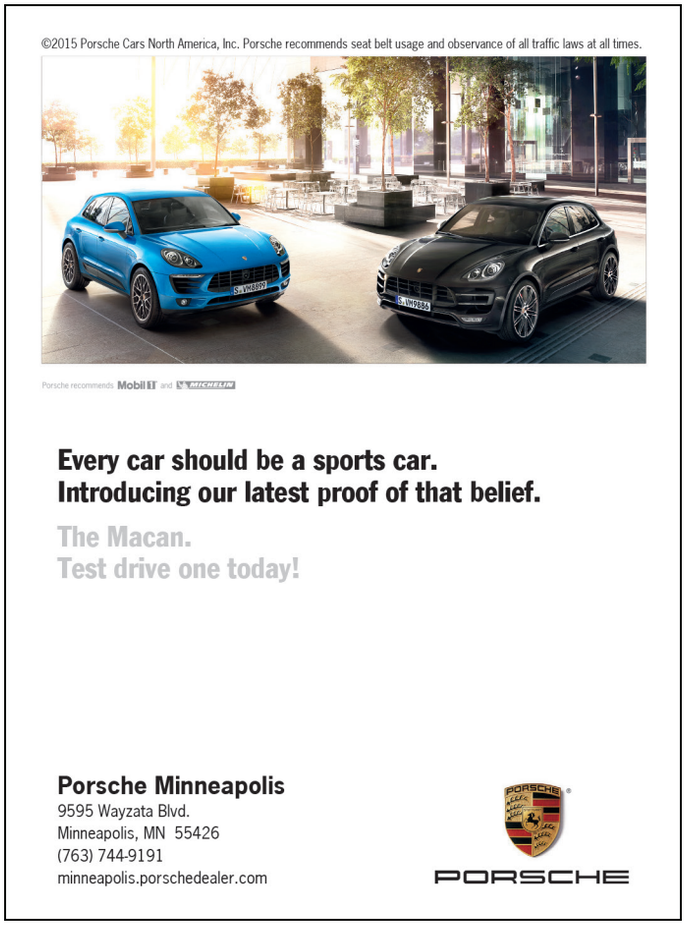
SUBARU OUTBACK: Why do we like them so much? Where do we start…reliability, all-wheel drive, lifted ground clearance, huge cargo and interior volume, and decent styling. The new 2015 model built off of these traits and made them even better. The Outback continues to be the preferred vehicle for active lifestyles, a good number of them just happen to be us. It still does it for us because it ticks all of the boxes. Oh, and Subaru loves us very, very much.

TOYOTA CAMRY: Every year, Toyota sells this popular mid-sized sedan in the tune of hundreds of thousands. There are many reasons for this: great value, straightforward design and offerings, high quality, and reliability. For 2015, the Camry was revamped, and it looks good. It drives quite well, too. Comparing it to delicious confections help sweeten this mainstream favorite even better. Whether you have a sweet tooth or not, you simply cannot go wrong with a Camry.

VOLVO S60: We will always remember our first Volvo. At least, I will. The S60 is a sporty number that was enhanced by a new series of engines: a four-cylinder lineup that offers both turbocharging and supercharging. The result is high fuel economy with high horsepower. Not to mention, it is very quick on its feet. As one of the first automakers to love our community, it is no wonder why they still do. The S60 is one major reason to love them back. ■



Subaru Outback. Toyota Camry. Volvo S60.





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DATELAND | BY JENNIFER PARELLO

Slumlord

In the past year, I've become a slumlord. It wasn't by choice. It was a mantle thrust upon me. And I'm an absolute failure at it. I am, in fact, the worst slumlord in the history of those who profiteer off the misery of others.

My dad's best friend, George, left my brother and me a dilapidated apartment building in a dodgy neighborhood when he died. We didn't realize we owned this dump until just recently, though, because we didn't know George had died.

After 80 years of friendship, George and my dad stopped speaking to each other after having an argument over President Obama. I never understood what caused the rift since they both hated Obama. My brother speculated that maybe they fought over who hated him more. Regardless, feelings were so hurt that when my dad was dying, he refused to allow me to invite George over to say goodbye.

As it turns out, George had died a few months before my dad. But, since he was unmarried with no kids, we didn't know of George's death until an attorney tracked me down with news of our inheritance.

George was a fun-loving playboy who aged into a complete lunatic. My mother would cite George as a cautionary tale during her campaigns to marry off my brother, another fun-loving playboy. "Do you want to wind up like George?" she'd threatened, raising the specter of a lonely existence spent with a string of buxom lady pirates from Eastern European countries who take all your money and leave you only with their abandoned pets and visits from immigration authorities.

My brother avoided that fate by marrying, having kids, and moving to California. I stupidly remained in the Midwest, which leaves me to deal with the inherited building.

George was a true slumlord. He owned several buildings where he performed minimal upkeep. When my brother and I first visited the building, my brother proclaimed, "What this place needs is a fire." That was one of George's favorite phrases. When he had exhausted the resources of a building and its under-privileged tenants, he'd burn it down and collect the insurance.

But, I'm not George. I'm a socialist in the Scandinavian sense of the word. I am determined to transform the building into a utopian society for single moms! A place where they can work collaboratively, sharing childcare and cooking responsibilities, and become stronger through sisterhood.

I convinced my brother that we should fix the place up. I immediately met with the tenants, notebook in hand, and diligently jotted down their requests for building improvements. I hugged them and assured them that we would make this work — together!

But what I didn't take into account was the deep antipathy between these women. They had lived together in this sinking ship for years and had cemented cinderblock-sized grudges against each other.

I routinely gather them in the backyard for rally sessions where I stare off dreamily into mid-distance and give inspired lectures about empowerment. They respond by rattling in their seats like boiling tea kettles, waiting for me to shut up so they can start screaming at each other over perceived slights, loud music playing, and the use of "foreign" cooking spices that "stink up the joint." The first building meeting ended in a melee when one woman lurched at another and grabbed her hair.

In the past month, though, I've seen signs of hope. One tenant sent me a smiley face emoticon via text after I brokered a peace accord between her and her downstairs neighbor and longtime nemesis. This morning, on a call with my brother, he suggested we sell the place. I considered it for a moment, but then I pulled up the smiley face emoticon and convinced him to keep the dream alive. ■



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THROUGH THESE EYES | BY JUSTIN JONES

Where the Wind Blows

I'm lying under my grandmother's clothesline, watching the bed sheets overhead billow in the wind. Wafts of Downy fabric softener and Gain laundry detergent mix with scents of lilacs and dogwoods planted nearby. The linens block the sun every few seconds, casting tree silhouettes that disappear as fast as they arrive. The sheets are the spires of an ice cream castle, the walls of a hidden labyrinth, the canvas upon which stories are drawn.

The sky is postcard blue, peppered with cotton ball clouds; the grass is soft and thick, enough to fill my hand when I grab hold. I hum a song my mother always sings, about a boy who plants a lollipop that blooms into a tree. Mr. Tackitt on one side next door is outside in his workshop, clinking tools and rattling nails; Mrs. Faith is in her garden on the other side, filling a birdfeeder and batting squirrels away; at the house behind my grandmother's, a strange woman wearing a bathrobe is digging a hole in her backyard.

This is the first time I'm neither playing nor in school, neither eating nor in a bath. Here I feel grown up, in control, content. This is how my grandmother must feel when she's in her rocking chair staring into the wind, toward wherever it blows. "Where *does* the wind blow?" I asked her once, to which she responded, "To the other side of the world, and all the way back again." At once unimpressive, the idea lingered.

The winds that echo through my ice cream castle will fly away from here, across the sands of the beach and onto the ocean, to fork through Queen Elizabeth's crown, to explore mummies in Egypt, to tickle manes of lions in Africa, to traverse the Great Wall of China and all things first-graders learn, to swing around Santa's palace to meet with Coca-Cola polar bears, all to end up here again, to explore my fort, to say hello.

This is my first calm wonder I remember as a boy, my earliest vivid memory.

I revisit this memory sometimes in my dreams, and I can still feel the sun on my face, smell the aromas of spring, feel the grass between my fingers; I still hear Mr. Tackitt clinking and clanking; Mrs. Faith cursing at squirrels; the woman in back toiling away. I am still overwhelmed by the distance the wind travels, by how many places it's been — science has no place in magic.

But the sheets overhead are not blank in my dreams; the wind paints upon them memories to which it bears witness: all of the tragedies and broken hearts, the warmth of a long lost family, the longing for a childhood ended in its beginning and all of the horrors that ensued, all of the death, bullying, prepubescent violations; the suicides and drugs, the rape and self-loathing.

Over time, these sheets became pages in journals, and, for the past five years, letters in a magazine. Over 150 confessions, embarrassments, cringe-worthy thoughts and reflections — genuine, unfiltered, unnecessary. Attempts at solace maybe, or validations of a kind.

This is my final column for *Lavender* magazine. ■



Season's Greetings

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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